

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02951 091023Z

15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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R 091000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8330

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2951

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MILI, PU

SUBJ: GEN. SPINOLA TO BE REPLACED AS GUINEA COMMANDER
AND GOVERNOR

1. SENIOR OFFICIAL IN OVERSEAS MINISTRY CONFIRMED TO
EMBOFF AUGUST 7 THAT GENERAL JOSE MANUEL BETTENCOURT DA
CONCEICAO RODRIGUES WILL ASSUME POSITION IN GUINEA NOW
HELD BY GENERAL SPINOLA. THUS BETTENCOURT RODRIGUES WILL
BE BOTH GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE AND COMMANDER OF MILITARY
FORCES. HE IS EXPECTED TO GO TO GUINEA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

2. GENERAL BETTENCOURT RODRIGUES SERVED MARCH 1970 -
MARCH 1973 AS COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN MILITARY ZONE
(ZML) IN ANGOLA, AND WAS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE VICEROY
OF THE EAST. IN THIS POSITION HE WAS BOTH MILITARY
COMMANDER OF ALL SERVICES IN HOTTEST PART OF ANGOLAN
INSURGENCY AND DE FACTO "SUPER GOVERNOR," ABOVE LOCAL DISTRICT
GOVERNORS. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, HE
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02951 091023Z

SEEMED PROUDEST OF HIS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WORK AMONG AFRICANS IN ALDEAMENTOS FOR WHICH WORK HE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED 250 THOUSAND CONTOS IN 1972, HALF AGAIN AS MUCH IN 1973. HE IS KNOWN TO BE AN AGGRESSIVE MILITARY COMMANDER AND AN ASTUTE POLITICAL PRACTITIONER. OTHER ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE MILITARY AND AIR ATTACHE, LONDON 1964-68 AND MINISTER OF THE ARMY 1968-70.

3. GENERAL SPINOLA ARRIVED IN LISBON AUGUST 6 FOR ANNUAL "CURE" AT SPA NEAR COIMBRA. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO GUINEA IN LATE AUGUST FOR FAREWELLS. IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL SPEECH, SPINOLA GAVE OPTIMISTIC ACCOUNT OF SITUATION IN GUINEA STRESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION.
POST

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